

Message Text

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ERDA - D.THOMAS

EUR/RPE - A.SENS

EB/ORF/FFE - B.RAMSEY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH, IEA

SUBJECT: MEETING OF IEA AD HOC GROUP ON EMERGENCY SHARING
OF NATURAL AND ENRICHED URANIUM AND URANIUM SERVICES

REF: OECD PARIS 2588

SUBJECT GROUP MET FEBRUARY 18 AND 19 TO DISCUSS REVISED
MANDATE GIVEN BY SLT ON 23 JANUARY (PARAGRAPH 6, REFTEL).

1. WHILE SLIPPAGE IN THE PROJECTED GROWTH OF NUCLEAR
POWER MAY RESULT IN SOME EXCESS OF NATURAL AND ENRICHED
URANIUM STOCKS IN THE SHORT TERM, GROUP REAFFIRMED CONCERN
OVER POTENTIAL SHORTAGE OF NATURAL URANIUM OVER LONG
TERM AND NEED TO SEEK SOLUTIONS IN ACHIEVING REQUIRED
RAPID RATE OF GROWTH IN NATURAL URANIUM SUPPLY. ITALY
LED EFFORT ON PART OF SOME DELEGATIONS TO INITIATE EFFORT
AIMED AT IDENTIFYING FAVORABLE LOCATIONS FOR NEW URANIUM
DISCOVERIES THROUGH THE WORLD. GERMANS ARGUED
PERSISTENTLY AGAINST THIS INITIATIVE AND NO ACTION WAS
TAKEN.

2. GROUP COULD NOT AGREE ON WHETHER EMERGENCY SHARING
PLAN SHOULD RELATE TO BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
CATASTROPHES. DECIDED, HOWEVER, THAT EVENTS RELATED
TO POOR BUSINESS JUDGMENT OR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN
GENERAL SHOULD NOT BE COVERED.

3. GROUP REEMPHASIZED THAT PROBLEMS RELATED TO SHARING
OF NUCLEAR FUEL ARE OF DIFFERENT TYPE AND MAGNITUDE WITH
A DIFFERING RESPONSE TIME TO THOSE OF OIL. ANY STRATEGY
OF URANIUM SHARING WILL REQUIRE UNIQUE FORMULAS AND
APPROACHES.

4. SINCE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN PROCESS OF FORMULATING
POLICIES ON NATIONAL STOCKPILES AND SEUS NOW REVIEWING
THESE NATIONAL PROGRAMS, GROUP DECIDED TO AWAIT COMPLE-
TION OF SEUS ANALYSIS BEFORE FURTHER STUDYING POSSIBLE
EMERGENCY SHARING PLANS.

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5. DECISION ALSO MADE TO (A) FORM WORKING PARTY UNDER
UK DIRECTION FOR PURPOSE PREPARING PROBABILITY ANALYSIS
ON POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES RELATED TO URANIUM RESOURCES
AND ENRICHMENT AND THEIR IMPACT, AND (B) HOLD NEXT
MEETING IN OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, PROBABLY IN APRIL. AT
THAT TIME GROUP MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE DETAILED BRIEFING
ON U.S. PROGRAM TO INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF BOTH NATURAL

AND ENRICHED URANIUM. KISSINGER

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